

DIVAS & DEVAS CREDITS

Back Cover:

Song Titles / Diva Names

Produced by: Hans Christian and Dave Stringer

Executive Producers: Karan Khalsa and Ditta Khalsa

Recorded, Mixed and Mastered by: Hans Christian

Spirit Voyage Logo & Contact info

More information and tour schedule: www.davestringer.com

Booklet / Inside Panels:

Bhaja Govindam and Shri Ram Jay Ram Produced by: Saul David Raye, Ganapathy Das and Hans Christian

Bhaja Govindam and Shri Ram Jay Ram Recorded by: Andrew Behla, Adam Berg and Hans Christian

Recorded in Los Angeles July /August 2007

Additional recording in Austin, Chicago, Detroit and Nashville by:

Erik Telford, Scott Schenke, Bill Lucas and Kirby Shelstad

Instruments:

Bill Lucas: Flugelhorn (Saraswati Ma)

Dave Stringer: Harmonium, Acoustic Guitar, Dulcimer, Melodica, Tamboura

Domonic Dean Breaux: Flute

Doug Brush: Vibes

Ganapathy Das: Swaramandala (Bhaja Govindam)

Hans Christian: Sarangi, Cello, Bass

Jeff Andrews: Santoor, Swaramandala

Krishan Khalsa: Mridangam

Miles Shrewsbury: Tablas, Shakers, Kartals, Bells, Udu

Patrick Richey: Cajon, Cymbals, Ghatam, Djembe, Dumbek

Paul Leudke: Trumpet (Gunghata)

Phil Rodriguez: Trumpet (Shri Ram)

Scott Schenke: Lap Steel, Mandolin, Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar

Voices:

Aja Uttama - Karnamrita Dasi

Arati Karu - Suzanne Sterling

Bhaja Govindam - Allie Stringer, Suzanne Sterling, C.C. White, Donna Delory, Wah, Sat Kartar

Gunghata - Donna Delory

Gurukripanjana - Kim Waters

Pasayadan - Sat Kartar

Samba Sadashiva - Wah

Saraswati Ma - Joni Allen

Shri Ram Jay Ram - C.C. White

Designed by:

MiLo

Photo Credits:

Ganapathy Das (C.C. White) Michael Longstaff (Dave Stringer) + additional credits

Special Thanks:

To Dearbhla Kelly for her patient love, careful listening, honest feedback and devoted support during the writing and recording of this record. To Kim Waters for the gracious hospitality and ministrations that helped smooth the recording process. To Antoine Bonsorte for making his beautiful house available to us as the primary recording studio. To Swamis Muktananda and Chidvilasananda for introducing me to the words and wisdom of the poet-saints of Maharashtra.

Publishing Credits:

Bhaja Govindam, Gunghata, and Shri Ram Jay Ram © by Dave Stringer, Published by Magnetic Melodies BMI / Saraswati Ma © 2007 by Dave Stringer, Published by Magnetic Melodies BMI / Aja Uttama, Arati Karu, Gurukripanjana, Pasayadan and Samba Sadashiva - Traditional, Arrangements © 2007 by Dave Stringer, Published by Magnetic Melodies BMI

About this recording:

During the time that I lived at Gurudev Siddha Peeth in Ganshpuri, India, many notable bhajan and qawaali singers passed through the ashram. I was very moved by the ecstasy and the stillness that radiated from them. The words they sang were written in India centuries ago during the era of the bhakti poet-saints, but they still spoke to me in a voice that seemed clear and modern, and these words continue to inform my thinking and my practice. In this recording, I have set some of these poems to my own original musical compositions. Other songs come directly from the rich musical tradition that has been transmitted to me through the lineage of Siddha Yoga, for which I will always feel a sense of deep gratitude.

The English word *diva* conveys a number of shades of meaning, some complimentary and some pejorative, ranging from accomplished artist through demanding ego. The origin of the term, however, is the Sanskrit word *deva*, which means luminous, shining, god, or heavenly one. And it is toward this original meaning that much artistic expression ultimately points. For me then, the title of this CD, 'Divas and Devas', refers to the relationship of our limited sense of self to the expansive awareness that we call divine love, as one reaches toward the other. According to Kabir, all life is an interplay of two spiritual principles: the personal soul (Jivatma) and the universal soul we call god (Paramatma). It is Kabir's view that liberation is the process of bringing into union these two principles.

This dance of the ego and the divine can be found in our most loving and intimate relationships. To see god in one another is one of the principal directives of yoga, seemingly simple, and yet one of the hardest to fulfill. It is said that the experience of divine love is always available within us, but we are blinded by our sense of smallness, of difference, of powerlessness. Seeking to transcend these illusions, grace is the force that we turn to, and compassion the quality we cultivate. Love is thus both the process and the product of our passage. And music is one of the most exquisite means we have to express it.

Dave Stringer